



Institute of Air & Space Law

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**McGill University
Montreal, Canada**

<http://www.mcgill.ca/iasl/>

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Inner Space: ICAO's New Frontier

- Since the dawn of the space age, most travel has been unidirectional

UP

- Spacecraft

~~didn't make round-trips.~~



Inner Space: ICAO's New Frontier

- Few conceived of rockets as a form of point-to-point terrestrial travel.



- **Nonetheless the Chicago Convention classifies the above as “aircraft”** – “Any machine that can derive support in the atmosphere from the reactions of the air other than the reactions of the air against the earth’s surface.”
- **Includes Wright Flyer and SpaceShipTwo.**
- **Does not include Hovercraft as of 1967.**

Inner Space: ICAO's New Frontier

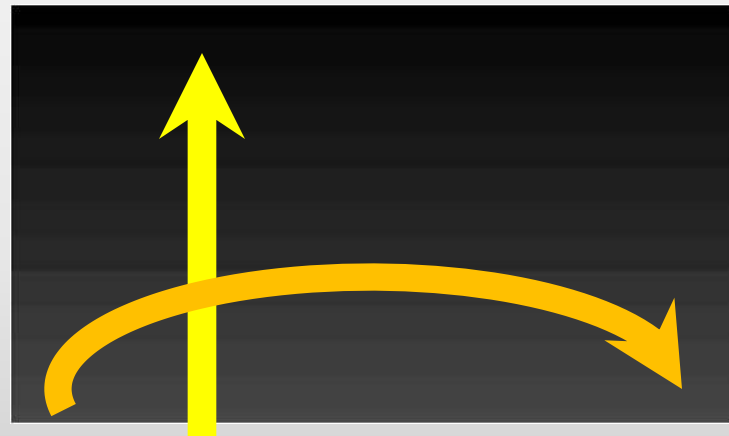
- There is no clear boundary between air & space.



- Previously the lack of agreement on a boundary was of little importance, space activities were in SPACE, airlines flew in the AIR.

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- Companies like Virgin Galactic pose new challenges to Space lawyers.



- Is it Space travel, or simply a much faster aircraft?
- If it is an aircraft, it raises ATM, safety and passenger liability issues.
- Its mere existence raises potential conflict between UNCOPIOS and ICAO.

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- My research will examine these issues and consider various options.



The Past



The Present?

Inner Space: ICAO's New Frontier

- Thank you.

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